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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the leader's heart is in Your hand and You turn destinies as You desire. Give our lawmakers wisdom to labor so that justice will abound and the righteousness will flow like a mighty stream.

Lord, may our Senators develop a clear vision of the light that leads to truth. Enable them to make the differing approaches expressed by both parties contribute to better solutions to the world's problems. Infuse our legislators with a reverential awe that will empower them to be aware of Your presence and to accept and obey Your plans. Use them as extensions of Your power in our Nation and world.

And, Lord, please place Your healing hands on Senator HARRY REID.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour before

resuming consideration of the Keystone bill. Senators should expect votes on pending amendments to the bill after lunch today. Votes are possible into the evening tonight as well as during tomorrow morning's session of the Senate. We need to make progress on this bill and all Members should expect a busy day.

### REAL DEBATE IN THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate, as I indicated, will continue its work on the Keystone jobs bill today. It is great to see a real debate on the floor of the Senate again. We saw some action in the Chamber yesterday and even some unpredictability. We saw how democracy in the Senate has looked many times in the past. It is great to see both sides able to offer amendments once more.

I know many of our Democratic friends have been ready to give more of a voice to their constituents too. I know they have been waiting for this moment for some time. The assistant Democratic leader said he welcomes our vision of the Senate where Members "bring amendments to the floor, debate them, vote on them, and ultimately pass legislation," and that is what we are doing.

Another Democratic colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia, said he was "very excited" about the prospect of an open amendment process. He also noted that it gave Members of his party a valuable opportunity to pursue some of their own priorities through the legislative process.

The Senator makes an important point about the more open Senate we are working toward. A more open Senate presents more opportunities for legislators with serious ideas to make a mark on the legislative process. It can give Members of both parties a real stake in the ultimate outcome of the bill on the floor. And because it does, it represents one of our best avenues to

secure passage of sensible legislation centered on jobs and the middle class. That is something we should all want.

So I hope Members in both parties will help us continue our efforts to make the Senate function better. That would be a good thing for our country. It would represent a change from the kind of Senate we have seen in recent years. And it would represent a positive step forward, not just for Congress but for the people we represent.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

### KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me join the majority leader in saying that I think we are in a healthy environment on the floor of the Senate where we are pursuing amendments and active debate, and it is great to see that happening. The only way that happens in the U.S. Senate is when the majority and the minority both work for it to happen. The rules of the Senate are constructed, as we both know well, so that literally any one Senator can stop the process. But the good-will and good-faith efforts of Senators on both sides of the aisle have really brought us to a good moment here.

I wish to commend especially the leaders on the floor for this legislation, Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska on the Republican side, and on our side Senator MARIA CANTWELL and Senator BARBARA BOXER. The two of them, in an extraordinary show of cooperation, have been able to work together to process amendments.

The fact is we voted on nine amendments so far on this Keystone Pipeline measure. We have eight amendments pending today. So there is a good-faith effort on both sides to call up these important amendments with fairness to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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